

# Hawai'i Construction Alliance

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August 22, 2017

The Honorable Joey Manahan, Chair  
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Budget, Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

## **RE: Strong Support for Bill 45, Relating to the Transportation Surcharge**

Dear Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Elefante, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

**We strongly support Bill 45, which amends the ordinances pertaining to the county surcharge on general excise and use taxes, and urge you to advance this measure so that it may be taken up at the next full Council meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>.**

As you know, we have been vocal advocates for the full build out of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project from West Kapolei to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. We believe this project is an important endeavor which will:

- Provide commuters with a fast, safe, and reliable alternative to driving in traffic congestion, eliminating tens of thousands of car trips that would otherwise be taken in private vehicles;
- Generate thousands of jobs in construction, engineering, and related fields, as well as additional indirect jobs in all sectors of our island's economy;
- Create the potential for transit-oriented development to take place in and around station areas, giving families the opportunity to affordably live, work, shop, and play closer to home; and
- Offer a more sustainable future for our island home through reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and less dependence on costly, imported oil.

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We are proud that many of our members have already been involved in relocating utilities along the route, constructing the facilities at the Rail Operations Center, drilling and pouring hundreds of shafts and columns, preparing balanced cantilever structures over the H-1 freeway, casting and erecting the numerous segments which comprise the first half of the guideway, and performing the initial work for the westernmost stations. We look forward to having even more members work on this historic project in the years ahead.

To that end, we humbly request your favorable action on Bill 45 in anticipation of the August 28<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> Special Legislative Session.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tyler" being the most prominent.

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i Construction Alliance  
[execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org](mailto:execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org)